

**A BLOW TO ALL CHRISTIANS.**  
Christmas season brings word that Turks have driven out Christian guardians of all holy places. The full story IN THE SUN TO-MORROW.

VOL. LXXXIII.—NO. 109.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1915.—Copyright, 1915, by the Sun Printing and Publishing Association.

**THE WEATHER FORECAST.**  
Rain to-day; partly cloudy and cold to-morrow.  
Highest temperature yesterday, 43; lowest, 31.  
Detailed weather, mail and marine reports on page 12.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

## WOODBRIBERY STORY RUSHED TO GRAND JURY

Speed Shown by the District Attorney Upsets Thompson's Plans.

## SENATOR SEEKS TO DELAY INDICTMENTS

Rumors Heard of \$50,000 "Slush" Fund and \$200,000 "Expense Item."

## UNION SIGNAL CO. OFFICERS TESTIFY

\$1,500 Fee Paid Wood Before He Was Commissioner Looms as Important.

District Attorney Perkins began a Grand Jury investigation of the charges against Public Service Commissioner Wood yesterday with a rush that fairly shocked Senator George F. Thompson, before whose legislative committee the tale of an attempted bribe was first told. He hurried up to the Criminal Courts Building and made an effort to communicate with the District Attorney, who was a full sail before the Grand Jury.

His effort was in vain. Word came from the jury room that Mr. Perkins was there to see until he had finished the job and the Senator had to make the best of it. After a conference with Assistant District Attorney Delahanty, Mr. Senator said he did not want the impression to go forth that he was interfering with the Grand Jury investigation, but that he did desire that any indictment in the matter be stayed off for a day or two lest it should operate to close the mouths of certain persons from whom the Thompson committee hopes to get information of a startling character concerning letting by the Public Service Commission.

There were rumors that this startling information concerned a \$50,000 "slush" fund which it was supposed to be used in the awarding of public service contracts and also an item of \$200,000 appearing on the Union Signal and Signal Company's books as "extraordinary expenses."

Officers and representatives of the Union Signal and Signal Company who had come here in response to the request of Senator Thompson further upset the legislative committee's plans by hurrying to appear before the Grand Jury. Then they returned to 165 Broadway, and after long conferences went on the stand and told, presumably, the same things that they had already disclosed under the questioning of Mr. Perkins and his assistants.

**\$1,500 Fee Recalled.**  
One of the noticeable things about the testimony of at least one of the witnesses who appeared before the Thompson committee was the unfavorable interpretation which it put upon the action of the General Railway Signal Company in employing Sidney G. Johnson and advancing him into a directorship after it was known that he had been forced to resign from the Union company because of the report he made as to his relations with Commissioner Wood. According to this witness, the General Signal Company was perfectly willing to employ a man who for years had been the successful agent of the Union company in getting contracts, and who had been advanced to the position of directorship after it was known that he had been forced to resign from the Union company because of the report he made as to his relations with Commissioner Wood.

Testimony along this particular line even went so far as the assertion that it was through Johnson that the General Signal Company was able to get the contract for installing signals in the Fourth Avenue subway in Brooklyn, although Johnson had not been a witness before the committee. The two witnesses understood Commissioner Wood to be a witness before the committee, but it was not until Johnson took the stand that it was known that Mr. Wood returned \$500 of this money to him. Johnson returned the \$500 to his company, the fact that Commissioner Wood should have returned the money to the investors was not a matter of concern. Deputy Attorney General Lewis was very careful to bring from the witness yesterday the assertion that Johnson had reported to Mr. Wood before he had been demanded the resignation of Johnson at that time.

**Witnesses Called by Perkins.**  
District Attorney Perkins called the Union Signal and Signal Company the first witness to go before the Grand Jury. It was he who on Wednesday afternoon before the Thompson committee had been asked to produce the records of the Union Signal and Signal Company, which he had refused to do. Commissioner Wood wanted \$500 to swing a contract. He was followed by Salmon O. Levinson, general counsel for the company, who told the Thompson committee that he put a different aspect on the case of Johnson. John H. McGuire, president of the Union National Bank of Pittsburgh and a director of the Union company, and Johnson were the other witnesses examined by Mr. Perkins. McGuire also was a witness before the Thompson committee later in the day. Senator Thompson had a long talk with the District Attorney. Perkins last night had taken by his committee. A distribution of the conference he reported on last page.

## PRESIDENT'S WEDDING TO BE CELEBRATED TO-DAY

Ceremony Is Expected to Take Place This Evening, but Exact Time Is Kept Secret—McAdoo Baby's Christening at Noon.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The understanding in Washington to-night is that the wedding of President Wilson and Mrs. Norman Galt to-morrow will be an evening affair. The details of the plans were guarded as closely on the eve of the nuptials as they were weeks ago, but there seemed to be little doubt among the President's closest friends that the ceremony will be performed in the home of Mrs. Galt some time after 8 o'clock.

The President and his bride, it is expected, will leave on their honeymoon trip soon after the ceremony. Where they will go is a secret that has also been closely guarded, but there are indications that the period will be passed in the South and that the couple will leave Washington to-morrow night on a train instead of on the Government yacht Mayflower. It is reported to-night that arrangements have been made for a special train.

It looks now as if the honeymoon may be disturbed by developments in the international situation. The threatening state of affairs with Austria leads many to expect that the President will be obliged to change his plans and remain in Washington. It was said, however, that this would not be necessary, as the President is in a position to be able to reach the President and confer with him during the honeymoon.

**May Go to Virginia.**  
This led many to believe that the President and his bride do not expect to go a long distance from Washington. In fact the impression is growing that they may spend the first two weeks on some estate in Virginia instead of going further south. The President spent a busy day winding up his official duties and getting ready for the wedding. He began the day with an hour or more of dictation to his personal stenographer and shortly before 11 o'clock the cabinet for an informal discussion of the Austrian situation. This afternoon the President busied himself in his study with official papers and in the telephone frequently in clearing departmental problems that were before him.

To-night he considered more than a dozen pardon cases which were prepared for his action at the Department of Justice under rush orders. No announcement concerning the cabinet was made today by the President, but many of the applicants for Executive clemency are entertaining high hopes of a warm reception at the White House.

The President is likely to be busy also to-morrow morning with affairs of state, when he will hold his final conference with Secretary Lansing. The remainder of the day he will devote to personal affairs and to preparation for the ceremony.

**McAdoo Baby's Christening.**  
One of the most interesting features of the festivities on the President's wedding will be the christening of the infant daughter of the Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. McAdoo. The christening will take place at a dinner at the White House, where nineteen months ago the baby's parents were married before a small group of friends.

Mr. Wilson will be godfather of the child and her aunt, Mrs. Francis B. Sayre, and her mother's cousin, Miss Helen Bones, will be godmothers. The ceremony will be performed by the Rev. William Cotton Smith, rector of St. John's Church.

**BELL AGAIN TRYING TO CLOSE CABARETS**  
Maxim's Picked for Test Case on Charge of Violating Theatre Laws.

Cabaret managers are once more abreast over the Shakespeare old question of "To be or not to be?" Commissioner Bell of the Department of Licenses is threatening their existence by trying to show the courts that they are all violating the ordinances governing theatres. Should he establish the legality of his contentions the result would be disastrous for the cabaret owners. It would mean that they would be forced to comply with the regulations of the fire, health and excise laws. Among these regulations is one forbidding the sale of alcoholic beverages in theatres. Commissioner Bell chose Maxim's, 105 West Thirty-eighth street, for a test case. Julius Keller, the proprietor, was arraigned before Magistrate Appleton in the Jefferson Market court yesterday on a summons obtained by the Commissioner and served by Chief Inspector Joseph O'Shane after he had viewed the premises only once. At the hearing it was decided that Edward M. Bernstein, attorney for the restaurant, and Commissioner Bell should have a decision in two days.

Attorney Bernstein holds that Maxim's is not giving a theatrical performance because there is no stage, no fixed seats with aisles and no curtain. The basis of his defense, however, is that it does not matter whether they are giving a theatrical performance or not. "We could transplant the Hippodrome performance into our cafe," he said, "and we would not be violating any ordinance. The ordinance under which the Commissioner is trying to convict Maxim's is that we are not a theatre and unless he can prove the contrary he has no case against us."

Four other cabaret-owners are being arraigned Tuesday in the West Side court on the same charge. They are the managers of Huston's, the Pekin, Tokio and Reisenweber's.

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Cap'n Gene's glance settled suddenly on the laboring lighter, stayed there for a minute or so, and then he smacked his nose with a clenched fist.

"Mike," he said to his mate, "that lighter will sink before she gets what's over is on board of her transferred to the Anglo Line dock. Take a look at her, man. She's two foot down by the head, and if I ever saw a waterlogged barge she's one."

Ten minutes later Cap'n Gene watched the stock company's lighter light to port, saw the surface of the icy water, and settled on the muddy bottom of the slip. They had seen a horse struggle and scramble clear of restraining pen- and plunge into the water, to swim helplessly among the legs of the men.

Later on he knew that the lighter had been hoisted up by the tug Edward Burns and Supt. L. L. Furge of the Anchor Line and the S. P. C. A. agents knew that the horse was about to be unloaded from the barge Virginia to the Anglo-Californian were drowned because of the unexplained leakage of the lighter.

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An evidence of the strictly private character of the wedding it is learned to-day that the President has not even invited his warm friend Col. House of New York. None of the President's intimates, of whom he is very fond, will be present.

Florists took charge of the Galt home this afternoon and to-night it is beautifully decorated. Mrs. Galt is very fond of flowers, especially orchids, and the President has taken much pleasure in sending her a fresh bouquet each day since the sale of the White House.

Wedding gifts continued to arrive both at the White House and at the Galt home to-day, but the larger number of these were from relatives. Some were sent by strangers. Very few officials and members of the Diplomatic Corps have made presents.

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An evidence of the strictly private character of the wedding it is learned to-day that the President has not even invited his warm friend Col. House of New York. None of the President's intimates, of whom he is very fond, will be present.

Florists took charge of the Galt home this afternoon and to-night it is beautifully decorated. Mrs. Galt is very fond of flowers, especially orchids, and the President has taken much pleasure in sending her a fresh bouquet each day since the sale of the White House.

Wedding gifts continued to arrive both at the White House and at the Galt home to-day, but the larger number of these were from relatives. Some were sent by strangers. Very few officials and members of the Diplomatic Corps have made presents.

Some of the more interesting features of the festivities on the President's wedding will be the christening of the infant daughter of the Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. McAdoo. The christening will take place at a dinner at the White House, where nineteen months ago the baby's parents were married before a small group of friends.

**Episcopal Charities GET \$400,000 IN WILL**  
Mrs. Sarah Skinner of East Orange Leaves Also \$200,000 to Woman Servant.

NEWARK, Dec. 17.—Requests amounting to \$1,000,000 are made in the will of Mrs. Sarah A. G. Skinner of East Orange, filed yesterday in the Superior Court of the State of New Jersey. The will, which was made by the late Mrs. Skinner, leaves \$400,000 to the Episcopal Church and the Episcopal General Church of the United States, the American Church and the Episcopal General Church, and \$200,000 to the Relief Fund for the Aged and Infirm, all with headquarters at 281 Fourth Avenue, New York City. The estate is valued at more than \$500,000.

Smaller specific bequests were made to local churches and to the Episcopal Church of the State of New Jersey. Mrs. Skinner was employed by a sister of Mrs. Skinner, Mrs. Mary L. Grannis, who died a few years ago.

A trust fund of \$5,000 was left for the Episcopal Church of this city, the income of which is to be used to pay part of the rector's salary. St. Barnabas' Hospital received \$7,000 outright. The Episcopal Church of the State of New Jersey, the Episcopal General Church, the American Church and the Episcopal General Church, and the Relief Fund for the Aged and Infirm, all with headquarters at 281 Fourth Avenue, New York City. The estate is valued at more than \$500,000.

At a little after 3:30 P. M. a telephone call went into Police Headquarters, which transferred the message to the West Twenty-third street station and to Capt. Burns. Burns rushed to the foot of West Twenty-third street with all of his available men. He sent word simultaneously to the headquarters of the Society for the Prevention of